

**Trends Like These: GoT Finale, Alabama Abortion Law, Courtney Dramatic Reading, New 'Aladdin' Clip, War With Iran Looming?, Natalie Portman and Moby, Elizabeth Warren Gets Serious, Taco Bell Hotel, Felicity Huffman Guilty, Robert Pattinson as Batman**

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**Travis:** This week, Game of Thrones ends, blue collar millionaire pretends, and Moby and Nat are just friends.

**Courtney:** I'm Courtney Enlow.

**Brent:** I'm Brent Black.

**Travis:** I'm Travis McElroy.

**Courtney:** And I'm fit for a champagne brunch!

**Brent:** With Trends Like These.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hello, Brent and Courtney!

**Brent:** Hello, Travis, and hello, Courtney.

**Courtney:** Hello, Brent, and hello, Travis!

**Travis:** And hello, my dogs. Which is not a fun nickname for the audience, like I realized it just sounded like, but my dogs are sitting here, looking at me while I record.

**Courtney:** Oh, hi, 'purppies.'

**Travis:** So hello, my 'purppies.' My 'purppies,' my 'purppies' and me. Um...

**Brent:** I wonder what dogs think about you talking not at a person, but into an object.

**Travis:** You know, I will say that I don't know about dogs, but my cat, Willow— so, ever since we got Lily, Willow hangs out mostly in our basement. It's finished, it's nice, got a couch down there. She loves it. But when Teresa and I start recording Shmanners, without fail, she comes and scratches at the door and cries until she can sit in Teresa's lap.

**Brent:** Oh.

**Courtney:** Aw.

**Travis:** And like, rub her face against the microphone. And here's the thing that's weird about it: Teresa can sit in the chair for like 40 minutes, but as soon as we start recording, that's when she comes up.

**Brent:** Hmm. Like, she ha—

**Courtney:** Willow's like, "This is my time to shine."

**Travis:** Yes. She has no interest in sitting in Teresa's lap, until we start recording.

**Brent:** Well, this is a cat that really could— really cares about etiquette.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Courtney:** Mm-hmm.

**Brent:** And learning as much about etiquette as possible.

**Travis:** That has to be it. Listen, folks, it is May 23rd 2019, 5:00 PM eastern time. I'm having what can only be described as a goblet of champagne...

**Brent:** Woah.

**Travis:** ...because I didn't want to have to refill it during the show. So it's probably about uh, um, seven or eight ounces, maybe more, of champagne.

**Courtney:** Travis, you fancy bitch!

**Travis:** I know.

**Brent:** Now, Travis, do you get hangovers from too much champagne, like bad ones?

**Travis:** I mean, I get hangovers from too much alcohol in general, but nothing—

**Brent:** Fair.

**Travis:** I wouldn't say, not specific to champagne, no.

**Brent:** I just— for some reason, sparkling wine these days is just asking for it, in a way that even five years ago was like, "Yeah, it's fine. I don't feel great, but I had a few glasses of wine."

**Courtney:** Oh, I have a thing where if I have champagne and any other alcohol, even wine, which I feel like champagne is just wine but sparkly, um, I will, like, die. I will— I will fall asleep, I will probably say something stupid or buy something stupid before I die.

**Brent:** Maybe that's what I did recently.

**Courtney:** Mm-hmm.

**Brent:** Because I had some vodka cocktails, and then had these little mini bottles of sparkling wine, and then I was like, "Well, I'm home for the night. Fuck it." And the next day, I was like, "I don't want to be alive."

**Courtney:** This is a sad thing...

**Travis:** Let's keep talking about—

**Courtney:** Oh.

**Travis:** Yeah, let's keep talking about how old we are, because yesterday I had, like, three glasses of Pilsner in, like, a, I would say, a three-and-a-half hour spread, and I had a massive headache starting from when I finished the third glass to about 45 minutes ago.

**Brent:** [sighs] So what we're saying to our younger millennial audience is, "Enjoy this time. Cherish these not-as-bad hangovers, within reason. Drink responsibly."

**Travis:** I saw one of the— as long as we're still--and I will get to what you guys are drinking, but I saw, like, one of those, like, infographic video things on Twitter that was like, "Majority of millennials don't know what a butter knife is." And like...

**Brent:** Hmm.

**Travis:** No...

**Courtney:** Now they're— now they're just making shit up.

**Travis:** Yeah, right? Like, I don't know who you asked or in what way you asked it, but there's no way that's true. That's not like, "Ooh, you know, look at this elementary school kid who doesn't know what a transistor radio is."

**Brent:** Right.

**Travis:** Like...

**Brent:** What I would believe is that they— because they all have to get the IKEA silverware set when they become adults, they don't get a butter knife, so they may not immediately own one or something. Like, studies like that are always, as we know, debunking them on the show, some kind of skewed bullshit just to make Boomers be— you know, "Millennials are ruining everything, including the butter knife!"

**Courtney:** Also, we're the millennials. Millennials are us.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Courtney:** I know what a fuckin' butter knife is! There you go. There's your— there's your poll! I win!

**Travis:** I don't have any friends who I think if I held up an— or if I said, like, "What's a butter knife?" they'd be like, [confused] "A but-ter knife?" Like...

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** What the fuck are you talking— it also said, in that clip I was watching, that like, most millennials don't describe themselves as good cooks, but like, Boomers do. And it's like, that means nothing.

**Courtney:** That means nothing.

**Travis:** That just means overconfident.

**Courtney:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Okay. Anyhoo, what are you drinking?

**Courtney:** I am drinking a glass of— it's my new favorite Cabernet, and it's called The Guide.

**Travis:** Ooh.

**Courtney:** I can get it at Binny's, and I do get it at Binny's in large quantities.

**Travis:** What is Binny's?

**Courtney:** Binny's is a like, Chicago-area liquor magic land. And they have everything.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Brent:** [laughs] Is that what the billboard says?

**Courtney:** Yes. I love Binny's.

**Travis:** At some point, the next time both of y'all are in Cincinnati, we'll make a trip to Party Source. I might've taken Brent there before. But it's like a giant, like, Walmart of just liquor and wine and beer.

**Courtney:** Oh, yeah.

**Travis:** It's amazing. Yes. I love it very much. Now, Brent, what are you drinking?

**Brent:** I am, once again, double-fisting a sparkling and then a still drink. The still drink is tap water. The sparkling is cola-flavored LaCroix. Which I think I tried to get you into last time when I was in Cincinnati.

**Travis:** [indifferent] Eh.

**Brent:** Probably not without— probably not with much success, as I remember.

**Travis:** No, but the unicorn sparkles one or whatever was great.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I miss that one every day.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** And I think they both sound gross. Great!

**Travis:** Oh, okay! Cool. Cool, cool, cool. Thanks, Courtney!

**Courtney:** [singing] That's what I'm here for! That's what I'm here to do.

**Travis:** Wow. Wow.

**Courtney:** [trumpeting comedically]

**Travis:** Hey, you know what? Before we get to the headlines, how's your week? How's everybody doing? Huh?

**Courtney:** I am having a lovely week, because as I was talking to Brent and Travis about before we started, I'm getting a new puppy!

**Brent:** Yes!

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** Her name is Aggie, she is six weeks old, she is a golden doodle, her mommy and daddy had a wedding...

**Travis:** [gasps]

**Courtney:** ...and the couple that I'm adopting her from, the third dog was the priest.

**Travis:** Nice.

**Courtney:** [laughs] They showed me pictures, and it was great.

**Travis:** Nice.

**Courtney:** But she is a floof, and I love her. And she kept, like, not wanting to play with her toys, because she just wanted to sit on my lap. And she's gonna be best friends with Annie. Because— so here's why I wanted to get a new dog. My dog, Annie— this is a sad story. But when I adopted my dog, Annie, she was found, like, wandering the road, full-term pregnant, covered in ticks. And like, based on her teeth, they thought she was like two years old, but then none of the puppies made it.

**Travis:** Aw.

**Courtney:** Which means she was too young to have the puppies. And so um, but she was clearly someone's pet, because she was housebroken, she could shake, like, she could do all that stuff. So then when she was in foster care, she kept trying to like, nurse all the other puppies that were there.

**Travis:** Aw.

**Courtney:** So she's always just been, like, this little like mother of a dog. She has, like, brought in baby animals from outside and just like dropped them on the couch to raise as her own. It's always terrifying. I don't like it.

**Travis:** Aw.

**Courtney:** But so I wanted to get her a baby that she can, like, love and honor. And I think Aggie will be that baby and they will be best friends.

**Travis:** Oh, great.

**Brent:** Lovely.

**Travis:** My— speaking of babies, mine's been— my week's been a little rough, because uh, uh, Bebe has been uh, a little sick. Not like, not sick enough to keep her laying down. [laughs sarcastically] Just sick enough to be in kind of a bad mood.

**Courtney:** Yeah.

**Travis:** So getting her to start doing anything or stop doing anything has just been hair-trigger crying. Um, and it's been great.

**Courtney:** It's rough stuff.

**Travis:** Love being a dad.

**Courtney:** Jules gets fucking mean when she's sick. Like, that's how I know—

**Travis:** Yes.



**Courtney:** — she's getting sick, 'cause she's just mean. Just knocking shit off the counters, like, "Fuck you, Mom!" She doesn't say that. She doesn't say that.

**Travis:** That's the thing. Bebe's like two and a half, and it's amazing how logical she is, and like, you can say, "Hey, we've watched enough Daniel Tiger today, we're gonna take a break."

And she's like, "Okay." But not when she's sick. When she's sick, she just starts screaming, "Dan, Dan!" over and over, and my brain melts. It's fine. I love her so much.

**Courtney:** It's fine. Everything's fine.

**Travis:** Brent, how's your week?

**Brent:** You know, kind of average, except for I went to New York City to meet with a producer about a potential New York run of the Star Trek show, and uh, it was very— I'm very optimistic, and it was a great meeting. So it was a good boost for me. Don't wanna, like, get my hopes up and tell everybody, "It's happening!" because that's not how the world works, but...

**Courtney:** Let's play it cool. Let's be chill.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** And then on the inside, be like, "Yay, Brent! Oh, my God!"

**Brent:** [laughs] Thank you.

**Travis:** I'm so happy for you two and your good weeks. Uh...

**Courtney:** You know what, I've had seven years of this like, sick-kid-asshole disease. So...

**Travis:** Okay. All right. Cool. Yeah, Brent!

**Courtney:** I'm no longer nice!

**Travis:** Yeah, Brent! What's up?

**Brent:** I'm always shamed for my non-baby-having choices on this show, but I gotta tell ya, I'm having an okay week. How are y'all? [laughs]

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** All right, folks. It is time once again to go Beyoncé the headlines. Uh, who wants to kick it off?

**Brent:** I will, because that's what it says in the doc. Um...

**Courtney:** Can I— I have a song to introduce this. Is that okay?

**Brent:** Please do.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Courtney:** [singing] Prince Ali, fabulous he, beyond the headlines!  
[spoken] That's the end. That's the whole song.

**Travis:** Oh, that's very good!

**Brent:** Very nice! And I liked it more than Will Smith.

**Travis:** How about this? [singing] Beyond, beyond is beyond, beyond the headlines. [spoken] That was too much.

**Courtney:** That was too much.

**Travis:** You know what? I heard it as I was doing it. Let's stick with Courtney's. We'll stick with Courtney's.

**Courtney:** [singing] You ain't never had a friend like be-yond the headlines!

**Travis:** That's pretty good, too!

**Brent:** Oh, man! Two for two! I'm not even gonna mess with it. I write lyrics slowly and methodically.

**Travis:** [singing] Beyond the headlines! [spoken] Was that anything?

**Brent:** Imagine somebody had never heard Aladdin. We would just seem like really interesting people.

**Travis:** Oh, no. Millennials don't know Aladdin.

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Brent:** Millennials, killing Big Aladdin! Um...

**Courtney:** With a butter knife!

**Travis:** What is this?

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Brent:** [laughs] All right. So this past week, even more footage was released from the upcoming live action remake of Disney's Aladdin, and you know, after the live action Beauty and the Beast, which I really didn't like, I was dubious about whether I would like the new one. The new Aladdin, that is. And I have some problems with the clip they released from Prince Ali. This might start to feel a little bit like my problems with Grease 2, that you can get in our Max Fun Drive bonus episode.

Um, okay. First off, they did a good thing by changing the lyric "Brush up your Sunday Salaam," from the original version, to "Brush up your Friday Salaam," because that's the holy day for Muslims, not Sunday. So that was a good call. But the choreography has Will Smith as Genie doing a brush-your-shoulders-off move. Now, I know I'm nitpicking, but Disney's known for their attention to detail, and "Brush up your Friday Salaam" is basically saying, like, "Prepare a respectful genuflection for this prince." I'm convinced the choreographer was not paying attention, and heard "brush

off" instead of "brush up," and now the movement makes no sense and the lyric clashes with it. Um, and the cinematography just feels boring.

**Travis:** You know, and also, to your point, there is a line in the song of [singing] "Genuflect, show some respect: down on one knee." [spoken] Like...

**Brent:** Exactly. That's the one right before, like, "Try your best to stay calm, brush up your Friday Salaam." Like, it is all one line of logic, and it just is all wrong. And it's a small detail, but again, that's— aren't those the things that make us love Disney, evil as a corporation as they are?

And like I said, the cinematography just feels boring. Feels like it's partially in the service of making Will Smith look cool, which I don't think is the point of the Genie.

**Travis:** No!

**Brent:** But I also just— I just think it's lazy directing. Like, Guy Ritchie, who's directing the new Aladdin, directed Snatch and Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels. They're interesting movies, with a brisk pace. He's good at this stuff, but it just feels like he either didn't know what to do with the musical number, or phoned in the cinematography.

And on top of all that, when Will Smith is talking about all the animals Prince Ali has, he comes to the lyric, "When it comes to exotic-type mammals," he's riding an ostrich! It's just a small thing, but like, put him on a lion, for god's sakes!

**Travis:** To be fair, Brent, most scientists are unsure whether an ostrich is a mammal or a bird.

**Brent:** [laughs] Okay.

**Travis:** That's plain science right there. They still haven't decided.

**Brent:** Okay. Well, the question is, do I hate it mostly because it's different from the one in my childhood, or do I hate it mostly because of the boring cinematography and problems with the choreography versus the lyrics?

**Travis:** This is my feeling on this, right? If I look at the, like, three— well, at least the three that spring to mind, live action Disney movies of uh, Beauty and the Beast, which is already out, Aladdin, which will be out soon, and then Lion King, the only one of those that I think is a interesting— well, I guess, also Jungle Book, right? So Jungle Book and The Lion King both strike me as, like, I am incredibly— I saw Jungle Book and I really liked it, and The Lion King I'm excited to see, because seeing, like, CGI realistic animals doing Lion King is interesting to me.

I don't know what live action adds to either Beauty and the Beast or Aladdin that I didn't get from the cartoon movie.

**Brent:** Well, I've heard—

**Courtney:** I will say, I actually very much like the live action Cinderella. That was good.

**Brent:** What I've heard, and this may be totally talking out of my ass, please tell me in the Facebook group or Twitter if I'm wrong, but I've heard that it's just as much to do with extending the copyrights on these licenses...

**Travis:** Ooh.

**Brent:** ...or on these franchises, as it is about actually, you know, going for broke to make great versions of these new movies. And of course, they're lavish, they're well-made, it's just like, if you're gonna make it new, make it either better or— you know what I mean? Like, just don't make a crappy version of the old one.

I will say, Lion King I'm absolutely interested to see after the trailer I saw at Avengers: Endgame. I will see it— it might not be good, but I will definitely pay money to see it in the theater. Aladdin, I'll probably view at home.

**Courtney:** So I will say that I have some film critic friends who have seen the new Aladdin, and from what I hear, it's actually good!

**Travis:** Yeah?

**Courtney:** Yeah! I mean, we'll see.

**Brent:** This could just be my musical theater snobbiness.

**Courtney:** I feel like it's a matter of like, expectations could not be lower, and it like, blows them away, but yeah.

**Brent:** Right.

**Travis:** Well, this is also— this is a thing that we've seen left and right, where it's like, the people who make the movie and the people who make the movie trailers and pull clips, like, very rarely seem to have good communication. So someone will be like, "This is the best clip I could pull!" and it's like, why the fuck did you pull that clip?

**Brent:** Right.

**Travis:** Like, maybe that's it. We've seen that before.

**Courtney:** The thing that bums me out, and this is so like a "Oh, this is different from my childhood" thing, but it's like— is there any more charismatic actor that is alive today than Will Smith? But there is such a— like, all it does is point out like, how fucking good Robin Williams was.

**Travis:** Right.

**Courtney:** That Will Smith, by comparison, just seems like, dead on the screen. Like, it's just so... We had a treasure.

**Brent:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** It also seems like, and I don't think it's about Will Smith, I think it's like, when you have a role like that, that was so iconically Robin Williams, how does anybody else do it?

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** Exactly.

**Travis:** Right? Without drastically changing it to suit the new person.

**Brent:** And I think that's what they did on the Broadway version. They went, "Okay—" 'Cause they actually, you can look on YouTube, they attempted to replicate Robin Williams as Genie in the Disneyland 45-minute version of the stage musical that you would see on-site, you know, eight times a day or whatever. And it just didn't work. Like, it kind of ended up feeling like Carrot Top, or something.

And eventually, they were like, "We want this to go Broadway. Genie's not working." And they went, "Well, what if we just make it an entirely different kind of character?" And that worked. And I think that this is another attempt to do that, but I think Will Smith's not one of those actors that— he's not a character actor. Whereas, like, Dustin Hoffman is a different person in every role. And Will Smith is a version of Will Smith. And that's cool, 'cause we like that.

But I just don't know if it lends itself— like you said, Courtney, maybe it'll turn out to be good. Maybe Prince Ali was just kind of— that clip was just kind of boring compared to what we remember, but I'm dubious.

**Courtney:** I will say, I also don't know a single other actor that would make sense to play the Genie. Like, I think that it is just this— such a specific role and it was so like, it just was Robin Williams.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** Who else could possibly do it?

**Travis:** Like, I'm sitting here, racking my brain, and usually, I consider myself to be pretty good at like, "Who would you cast?" games, and like, I got nothing.

**Brent:** I think that if they had decided to do it 10 or 15 years ago, before representation was on their mind, they probably would've gotten, like, Frank Caliendo. Like, somebody...

**Courtney:** Oh, God!

**Brent:** I mean, I know. I know.

**Courtney:** Ugh!

**Brent:** But I'm just saying, like, to try to get an impersonator who can do all the different voices. It would be quite a thing, and not, probably, in a good way, but...

**Courtney:** It'd be fucking horrible. I'm mad about it.

**Travis:** We don't normally do this, but if you think of a better casting and like, you're confident it's right, tweet at us, @TrendsLikeThese, 'cause I do wanna know your suggestions.

**Brent:** Yes.

**Courtney:** So Melissa Jeanine is no one. She's nobody. She doesn't matter. But as is the way of the internet, she said a bad, dumb thing 100 percent for attention, and we all gave it to her, and honestly, I'm kind of okay with that, because I really love when we as an internet come together to just dunk on a garbage person. Like, that's honestly my favorite thing. It's beautiful, it gives me hope.

She describes herself thusly: "Businesswoman. Blue collar millionaire. I teach people how to be wealthy and successful." And then she links to a CashMe page for herself, so I think that's like, lesson one, is just, ask people to give you money.



**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** What does "blue collar millionaire" mean?

**Courtney:** It's a made up thing.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** She has a website called Positivity Right Now, which is a very dumb name, but that doesn't matter, because it's also nothing. Like, the whole website, I went to it, it's a lot of like, "Speaking! Coming soon. Partnerships! Also coming soon." And then, like, social media icons that don't link to her social media pages. They, like, came with the website, and don't link out anywhere. So she's doing a great job.

She posted a thread that went quite viral, and I shall read it to you a-now.

[light, fancy instrumental music plays in background]

"Broke people are usually very low class, have extremely bad manners, have zero etiquette, and no class at all, whatsoever. Thread." I'm gonna stop myself real quick, because they have both low class and no class. She's off to a good start to her thesis. [clears throat]

[music resumes]

"Years ago, when I first got married, I wanted to make friends with the neighbors in our new apartment complex. To break the ice, I baked a batch of scratch cookies, and put them in a big Tupperware container and gave them to the girls at the office. Not only did they not thank me for the cookies, they kept the container and never talked to me again. We lived there for two years. Not one of them, since that day, ever said one single solitary word to me! Another time..."

**Travis:** Uh, I'm sorry to interrupt real quick.

**Courtney:** Mm-hmm. Yes, yes. Of course.

**Travis:** I'm very confused by what is said in this tweet. Um, and there's a lot of tweets, so I just want to jump in here, before we move on, real quick.

**Courtney:** Mm-hmm. Yep, yep, yep.

**Travis:** Um, wanted to make friends in the new apartment complex, so she gave cookies to the people who worked in the office of the apartment complex?

**Courtney:** Right. Yes.

**Travis:** Okay. All right.

**Courtney:** Also, she does call them scratch cookies.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm. Mm.

**Courtney:** Not from-scratch cookies. Scratch cookies. So I am envisioning...

**Travis:** "These are my scratch cookies!"

**Courtney:** ...cookies made of sandpaper.

**Brent:** They make me itchy! They're delicious!

**Courtney:** They'd just fully, like, edge your colon off of its whole deal.

[clears throat] [music resumes]

"Another time, I was working at an insurance company, and it was my turn to bring in a store-bought cake for the next employee b-day party. I thought, instead of a cake, I'll make a gourmet dessert! I spent two days preparing 48 hand-made Hershey's chocolate recipe dessert cups. Our team lead, a bigger girl, was angry that I didn't bring in a cake.

"So what did she do? She went and bought a cake, and told me, 'We'll just put your dessert cups out on the table next to the cake, and if people want one, they can take one.' I dragged in one of those huge turkey tins full of these perfectly constructed dessert cups! They even had little Hershey's kisses flags garnished in each cup.

"They were fit for a champagne brunch. And a bunch of rude, low-class, broke, obese girls didn't want them. This was 15 years ago." [laughs]

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Wow!

**Brent:** Still mad about it.

**Courtney:** "And boy, did I learn my lesson quick! This was the last time I ever did anything spectacular or over the top for any mediocre, middle-class, broke losers!"

**Brent:** Oof.

**Travis:** Wow.

**Courtney:** "They don't have the mannerisms," okay, "etiquette, nor class to appreciate the finer things! Now, I give my socialite group fresh flowers, wine, treat them to lunches, and I buy them beautiful, thoughtful, lavish gifts! And they share with me their entire network, and million dollar connections."

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Courtney:** "Kinda beats some rude cow who won't give me back my \$10 tupperware, huh?"

[music stops]

**Travis:** You spent \$10 on Tupperware? What's wrong with you?

**Courtney:** The fuck is wrong with you? And then she posted a picture.

[music resumes]

"This is very similar to what I made, minus the fruit. Each perfect chocolate shell cup had Hershey kisses inside, caramel and chocolate mousse and a dusting of confectioner's sugar with adorable Hershey's flags. Obese office girls turned up their nose at them for a Walmart cake!"

So the image that she has accompanied, which is not, like, what she did, is that thing where you, like, pour chocolate into a mold and it turns them into like, cups. That's it. That's the tweet. Like, it's fine. It's not a fucking gourmet dessert. Calm down, Janice.

Uh, so first, I got some shit because I tweeted, joking about Hershey's, because it's very funny that she was just like, "The gourmet pinnacle of class and elegance!" and it's Hershey kisses. And I included a screenshot of an article saying Hershey's chocolate has the same component as vomit.

And, like, one of our blessed angel listeners even said, like, "This is how we get anti-vaxxers." And first of all, y'all, I love you, but calm down. And it's also not an anti-science thing. It's very— like, I understand chemicals. It's literally that once I heard there is a vomit acid taste to Hershey's chocolate, I could not untaste it, and it ruined my life, and now I'm gonna ruin yours too.

Melissa Jeanine, who I accidentally typed as "Megan", because I already forgot her dumb name, has done that thing where she is, like, pretending that she loves the hateration and the holleration because she's above it all, even though it's the exact reason she did the thing in the first place. She responded to a news.au journalist, saying that her "exclusive interview fee" is \$5,000.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Courtney:** And she also says things like...

[music resumes playing]

"I guess this is what people mean by getting ratioed or whatever. Right? Doesn't matter. I haven't read any of the comments, and I never will! My life will always be far too beautiful and exciting to care about the haters and the losers!"

**Brent:** Oh, my God.

**Courtney:** It won't be. She's nothing. She will remain nothing, and cake will remain incredible.

**Travis:** Uh, yeah. Just real quick, I wanna throw out, if I said to somebody, "Hey, when you come uh, to the office party, I need you to bring a cake," and they said yes, and then they showed up with something other than a cake, the thing I asked for, I would be pissed at them, no matter how great the thing they brought was. I asked for a cake, and you said yes to cake! Like, that was the plan! That was the plan.

**Courtney:** And the thing— I've worked in enough offices to know that people will eat fucking anything that people bring in. That's just the rule. Unless it's brought in by an asshole. No one is eating your asshole Hershey cups!

**Travis:** If you brought in 12 for, like, an office of 80 people or some shit, which you probably did, um, this— hmm. Okay. Because I don't want you to ever support this person, this is the first article on this person's webpage that they publish on, I don't know, too often. And I will now read the beginning of it to you.

**Courtney:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** The title of the post is, "I confess I'm a gold digger."

"I have a confession to make. I'm a gold digger. Every opportunity I dig for ends in a pot of gold. However, make no mistake: there was no shiny, big rainbow at the start of these golden opportunities," and now what I am about to read is one of the craziest things I have ever read in my life.

"I had to have a very long rendezvous with both Mr. Dark Cloud and his big brother Rainy Days before much else would happen." [laughs]

**Brent:** [clicks tongue] Wow.

**Travis:** This person sucks.

**Courtney:** She shouldn't be charging \$5,000 for anything.

**Travis:** This person sucks.

**Courtney:** I am an editor, and I would not give her 50 bucks for that trash.

**Travis:** This— there's part— like, I saw— I think it was Mara Wilson posted, like, this person, like, did this specifically to like gain attention to create some kind— because the thing is, is if you look at the bio of this person on their webpage, they talk about being a blue collar millionaire, but nowhere in the bio does it say what they did.

**Brent:** Right.

**Travis:** It just says, like, "I was in the middle class and I got stuck in that middle-class malaise for a while, and then I made the decision to stop and make a life for myself. The end."

**Brent:** And the thing is, we don't have any actual proof that she's a millionaire, not that that would make her a good person.

**Courtney:** No.

**Brent:** But it's like, we know she comes from a middle-class situation, and she's taking time out of her day to shit on people that aren't privileged as she wants us to think she is, because they don't have class. It's all just such a bald-faced, like...

**Courtney:** It's pretend.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Brent:** ...the desire for privilege hierarchy to perpetuate itself. And it's pretend. It's really vile. It's really gross.

**Courtney:** It's made-up. It's made-up nonsense. But I still love it. I still love coming together and just, like, hating as a group. I love it. It makes me really happy.

**Travis:** It's just nice when everyone can take a break from their differing opinions to be like, "Yes, but we can all agree, like, show of hands, this is terrible. Ooh, all right. Everyone. Okay, great."

**Courtney:** Like, this is the— this is the very same feeling as I had when I said a few weeks ago, that I love when people come together. I love something like, you know, Avengers: Endgame. That's how I feel about hating someone, too. I love it.

**Travis:** It's so nice.

**Courtney:** So nice.

**Travis:** So ask anybody what makes their jobs difficult, and you'll get a wide variety of answers. Ask a construction worker, and they might tell you about on-site job danger, or like, ask a teacher, and they might tell you horror stories about difficult parents. Ask an actor, and you'll probably get an earful about the difficulties of living in the public eye, and that might not seem so bad, but imagine if you had to, more than once, deny that you ever dated Moby.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Um, in Moby's new book, "Then It Fell Apart", the singer claims that he and Natalie Portman dated briefly when he was 33 and she was 20. Uh, he says they met backstage at a show he did in Austin in 1999. In an excerpt from the book published in Entertainment Weekly in April, he claims, quote, "I was a bald binge-drinker who lived in an apartment that smelled like mildew and old bricks, and Natalie Portman was a beautiful movie star. But here she was in my dressing room, flirting with me." End quote.

He also writes in the book, quote, "I took a taxi to Cambridge to meet Natalie," this is while she was in college, "to meet Natalie. We held hands and wandered around Harvard, kissing under the centuries-old oak trees. At midnight, she brought me to her dorm room, and we laid down next to each other on her small bed. After she fell asleep, I carefully extracted myself from her arms and took the taxi back to my hotel."

So this isn't the first time that he has claimed to have dated Portman. He also spoke about it in an interview in 2008, basically something along the lines of like, getting a bunch of like, nerd rage because he dated Anakin Skywalker's mom. Gross.

However, Natalie Portman says that this is factually inaccurate, because they did not date. In a Harper's Bazaar interview on this and other topics, Portman says, quote, "I was surprised to hear that he characterized the very short time that I knew him as dating, because my recollection is a much older man being creepy with me when I had just graduated high school. He said I was 20. I definitely wasn't. I was a teenager. I had just turned 18. There was no fact-checking from him or his publisher. It almost feels deliberate. That he used this story to sell his book was very disturbing to me. It wasn't the case. There are many factual errors and inventions. I would have liked him or his publisher to reach out to fact check.

"I was a fan, and went to one of his shows when I had just graduated. When we met after the show, he said, 'Let's be friends.' He was on tour, and I was working, shooting a film. So we only hung out a handful of times before I realized that this was an older man who was interested in me in a way that felt inappropriate."

Uh, in response to her response, Moby posted a picture of the two of them together, presumably from the time when they were allegedly dating, on his Instagram. The picture he chose to post is the two of them standing together, awkwardly, in my opinion, and he isn't wearing a t-shirt and is smiling. Weird, in my opinion.

The caption reads, quote, "I recently read a gossip piece," okay, "wherein Natalie Portman said that we never dated. This confused me, as we did in



fact date. And, after briefly dating in 1999, we remained friends for years. I like Natalie, and I respect her intelligence and activism, but to be honest, I can't figure out why she would actively misrepresent the truth about our, albeit brief, involvement. The story as laid out in my book, *Then It Fell Apart*, is accurate, with lots of corroborating photo evidence, et cetera. Thanks, Moby. PS, I completely respect Natalie's possible regret in dating me. To be fair, I would probably regret dating me too. But it doesn't alter the facts of our brief romantic history."

Um, ew. Uh, and more— more ew in a second. Um, but, but, but, but what I find very interesting about this is that this is, I think, a picture-perfect, no pun intended, example of the separation between experiences of two people in the same situation.

I don't know that Moby is actively lying. Perhaps he is. But let's just, for a moment, assume he is not. Um, and say that he very possibly, in his experience as an older man, with just— by that definition, even though she was a movie star at this point, had more power in this scenario. That he believed that they were dating.

Where in actuality, from her point of view, she was, you know, in a situation where she was just hanging out with who she thought was a friend, was uncomfortable, but was afraid of making him upset?

**Brent:** So you think this is one of the most creepy and elaborate versions of that awkward moment where somebody asks two people, like, "Are y'all dating?"

And one says, "Yes."

And the other's like, "We're just friends." Like, at the same time. [laughs]

**Courtney:** I'm actually very— I actually really genuinely feel that's exactly what this is. And it's so fucking creepy and bad and also such a fucking dude thing. That entitlement.

**Travis:** Right.

**Courtney:** Where it's just like, "Yeah, we're dating." And he does not realize he's being fucking creepy. And that is a thing. It is a common thing, and I feel very strongly about this!

**Travis:** And especially since even if we were to say that this was just him not knowing or whatever, once she was like, "No, that's not what happened."

For him to then come back and be like, "Uh, it is what happened, she's lying."

That's— that's where any kind of explanation or any kind of understanding that could have achieved kind of goes out of the window for me, of like, "Hey, you published this story about this person in your book without, like, running it by— like, you claimed you were friends and you were in a relationship with them."

And here's where it gets more "ew" and kind of backs up my concern here. So this is from an interview that uh, Moby did with The Telegraph. "'Uh, there are a lot of, brackets, end brackets, 'famous names,'" he admitted to the Telegraph's Craig McLean, "But I've learned that libel is more problematic with private figures than public figures. If I write about dating Natalie Portman, anyone can Google and find pictures of us together, so it's not libelous. But if I talk about an ex-girlfriend from the mid-'90s who I had sex with on a dance floor at a Stevie Nicks club night and she's now a mom with three kids running for city council, she could sue the hell out of me." End quote.

Um, so it's kind of hard to read that without thinking that he said, "I don't need to fact-check or check— like, people will— there are pictures of us, so it's believable. But if I was never publicly dating someone, it could be a big thing, so those are the ones I have to make sure that I check with."

Like, and just to say that, like, someone I had sex with who's now a mom could sue me, that's not, like, a cool thing to say?

**Brent:** No.

**Travis:** Um, like, I realized in researching this story, that if you had asked me before I started researching this story, if I had any kind of opinion whatsoever about Moby, I would have said that I was perfectly neutral about the idea of Moby, the person. And just from reading the way he has talked about this, has handled it and has responded to it, he sounds like kind of a piece of shit.

**Courtney:** Yeah. His responses to this really, like— he didn't come out and say this, but it eeks of, like, my most hated, like, male thing, which is just "Well, I guess I just can't say anything."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** And that is basically what this just like, drips with. And I'm [whispering] mad about it.

**Travis:** And if you read between the lines of that like, of the Instagram post thing that he put up, instead of saying, you know, "Maybe I misunderstood it, maybe there was a power dynamic there that I wasn't aware of, maybe my behavior made her uncomfortable in a way that I had never considered." Instead, he was basically saying, "She's lying because she's embarrassed about dating me." And it makes it— he's intentionally making it about him, and not about her. So...

**Courtney:** And that's such a thing that they do, where they like, in an attempt to discredit this person, just totally tell on themselves and prove that person right. Like, yeah, that's a really fucking abusive way to handle this, so I'm with this person.

**Travis:** Right.

**Courtney:** Chris Hardwick did the same thing.

**Travis:** By insulting himself, making it so like, now everyone will understand why she's lying, to prove that she's lying. You know? It's just...

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** It just seems like there's 1,001 better ways to have responded to it. To have reached out to her and be like, "Hey, did I misconstrue our time together? If so, I'm so sorry, and like, I can address it." But instead, to just be like, "Well..."

**Brent:** I feel like he just cares more about not hurting the sales or the perceived integrity of his book than anything to do with the truth, or her, or the optics. And you know, it's not an excuse, but that would be my bet. And it's shitty.

**Travis:** Yeah. Gross. Yeah.

**Courtney:** So... okay. Last Sunday, the Game of Thrones finale aired, and it sure was a finale!

**Travis:** And everyone loved it.

**Courtney:** And then that's the television show! It sure was an episode that aired! It sure did end, it isn't on anymore! It definitely was a whole season of HBO programming. It was.

Trying to run down this whole season will just be a goddamn mess, because seriously, I watched every episode of this show, and I never learned most of the people's names.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** A couple weeks ago, people were talking about Cleganebowl between Sandor and Gregor Clegane, and I was like, "Who the fuck are these people?" because I forgot The Hound's name isn't "The Hound," like short for Theodore Hound. So basically...

**Brent:** Now, just as the resident spoiler police, do we even have to worry about that, or nah?

**Courtney:** No. Like, I'm gonna tell— we don't need to for that.

**Brent:** Okay.

**Courtney:** We don't need to for that. I'm gonna, like, inter— like, no.

**Brent:** Okay.

**Courtney:** I am absolutely not spoiling that The Hound's name is not Theodore Hound. [laughs]

**Brent:** [laughs] Okay.

**Courtney:** So I am going to provide you a dumb trash recap for this dumb trash season of this damn dragon show. Spoilers to follow, obviously. Leave if you want, but don't bother. It's not good!

**Brent:** Now, if somebody out there, for whatever reason, wants to watch the season and hasn't gotten around to it, Mustin's gonna tell you the time code on the final episode to skip ahead to. Take it away, Mustin.  
Mustin: 42 minutes, 53 seconds.

**Courtney:** And I'm gonna tell you to just not. To just not.

**Brent:** Okay.

**Courtney:** To just, like, live happily in season seven. But whatever. [breathes deeply] Okay. Here goes. [inhales]

Dany Targaryen went evil because the show's creators think that foreshadowing is the same as character development. Not that she was ever truly a force for good; after all, she was the Queen of White Savior-dom. That said, the character certainly never earned an immediate lapse into quote, unquote, "Madness," holy rough portrayal of family mental illness Batman, and she torches an entire city with her dragon baby's fire breath for no real reason other than being mad at Cersei for killing off the only black female character of the entire show, the black female character whose last word of the entire series was one of devotion to the aforementioned Queen of White Savior-dom.

Dany puts Tyrion in jail because Tyrion is basically always in jail, and in fairness, Tyrion has been really stupid all season, because— I'm actually okay with that, because his family makes him stupid, and that's totally relatable. Dany is ultimately hog stabbed by Jon Snow, who remains whiny and worthless and tricked his aunt-girlfriend into feeling safe and loved, and then was all like, "Ba-bow! Stab!"

And her dragon baby was like, "Fuck this chair!" and destroyed the iron throne, because dragons understand narrative metaphors. Jon Snow gets in big trouble, because you can't just go around murdering queens, even super mean genocidal aunt-girlfriends with dragons!

There's a big meeting where it's decided who the real heroes were the stories we met along the way, which is very silly, so it's decided that Bran, who is a weird bird, should be the king, because he's interesting. L-to the-O-to the-L. And basically, Bran has either been playing them for several seasons now, because he's supposed to be all-knowing, or he's legit terrible at his own weird bird powers.

Sansa, who is the only one who has any leadership skills whatsoever, becomes the Queen of the North, meaning she gets to stay home where people love her and wear her coats, and not have to deal with any of the other bullshit from these other nonsense people. Arya decides to go west of Westeros, where apparently no one has ever been, which is buck wild, but fine. I'm all about the ongoing adventures of my fierce baby bitch, Arya Stark.

Jon Snow is back to the Night's Watch, where he can't have kids, which is fine, because Sansa was all like, she told everyone Bran's dick don't work, so he can't either, and they're like, high five! No kids! Freedom brothers.

Robin Arryn, the creepy milk boy, shows up, and he got hot. Other men are there. I don't remember them, or their names. But Sansa shoots one of them down, because she's perfect. Yara Greyjoy remains gay as fuck.

Sam Tarly invents democracy and then writes a book of the show that he is in. And Brienne writes about how Jaime was awesome, even though he died

like a bitch. And don't even get me started on Cersei, who deserved to go out like a goddamn boss, and instead died scared of rocks and incest tears.

Anyway, Ghost was also there, and he's a very good boy. And that's it. That's the end of the show. The end.

**Brent:** Ta-da.

**Courtney:** Thrones.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Listen, folks. Hiring isn't easy. We all know that. We've all hired thousands and thousands of people. And you think, "I'm just gonna put an ad in the paper or, I don't know, tape something up on telephone poles around town," but it doesn't happen. You need something that helps you find the right people for your business, and LinkedIn Jobs does just that.

LinkedIn Jobs uses knowledge of both hard and soft skills to match you with the people who fit your role best. And 90 percent of LinkedIn's 500 million active members are open to new opportunities, but aren't scanning job boards. This means LinkedIn Jobs gives you access to an entirely different demographic than anywhere else.

So post a job today at [LinkedIn.com/trends](https://www.linkedin.com/trends), and get \$50 off your first job post. That's [LinkedIn.com/trends](https://www.linkedin.com/trends). Terms and conditions apply.

[theme music plays]

**Courtney:** I was wondering if you guys might like to round up some politics.

**Travis:** Oh! Huh. You know, let me...

**Brent:** Well, we could. I mean, I could eat.

**Travis:** Yeah. All right. Sure, you know what--

**Courtney:** Let's just order some politics roundup for the table.

**Travis:** If I get some politics for the table, you guys have some?

**Courtney:** Yeah. Totally.

**Brent:** Yeah. We'll family-style it, how about that?

**Travis:** Okay. We'll get some politics and some tapas.

**Courtney:** [gasps] Oh, my God, I love tapas! All right.

**Travis:** Tapolitics.

**Brent:** It'll be tapical.

**Travis:** That's true.

**Courtney:** Brent, that was very good!

**Travis:** That was very good.

**Brent:** Hey, thanks!

**Courtney:** It was very good, Brent, and I'm proud of you.

**Brent:** Thank you. 'Prec.

**Courtney:** Look, I know there's a lot of election stuff to come, and who knows what the coming months will bring to us, but in this exact moment, I must tell you, I have gone "O Captain! My Captain!" and her name is Elizabeth fucking Warren. First, let's just get...

**Travis:** Yeah, she's really winning me over...

**Courtney:** She's real, real good.

**Travis:** ...with her policy shit.



**Courtney:** Let's get this out of the way now. The Washington Post just ran an expose on Warren. Please brace yourselves.

"Being a lawyer and," God, I hope you're sitting down, "charging for it."

**Brent:** What?

**Courtney:** Like, I know. That's it. That's the whole story. It's nonsense. Fuck that whole thing. Anyway, in terms of things that matter, Elizabeth Warren has had a powerful few weeks. In the face of abhorrent anti-abortion, anti-reproductive rights legislation, which we're about to get to in greater detail, and just [retching noise], um, these legislations that are spreading across the country like a goddamn plague, she announced her plan for protecting reproductive healthcare.

She would ask congress to pass laws that preempt the State's rights to ban or impose regulations that severely limit accessibility, as well as repeal the Hyde Amendment that prohibits federal funding for abortion services. And that doesn't just mean federal funding going to, like, Planned Parenthood. That means that Medicaid, the VA and federal employee health plans can't cover abortion services.

She would also push forward the EACH Woman Act, which would prohibit abortion restrictions under private health insurance. Kirsten Gillibrand and Cory Booker are the only other Democrats to have laid out anything resembling actual policy, although as in all areas, Warren's is the most detailed.

She also, in the kind of tweet thread you need a cigarette after, denounced Fox News and said, "Hard pass," to participating in their town hall series. She said, "I love town halls. I've done more than 70 since January, and I'm glad to have a television audience be part of them. Fox News has invited me to do a town hall, but I'm turning them down. Here's why: Fox News is a hate-for-profit racket..."

**Travis:** Woah!

**Courtney:** "...that gives a megaphone to racists and conspiracists. It's designed to turn us against each other, risking life and death consequences to provide cover for the corruption that's rotting our government and hollowing out our middle class.

"But Fox News is struggling as more and more advertisers pull out of their hate-filled space. A Democratic town hall gives the Fox News sales teams a way to tell potential sponsors it's safe to buy ads on Fox. No harm to their brand or reputation. Spoiler: It's not.

"Here's one place we can fight back. I won't ask millions of Democratic primary voters to tune into an outlet that profits from racism and hate in order to see our candidates. Especially when Fox will make even more money adding our valuable audience to their ratings numbers."

She remains in third place behind Biden and Sanders because you know why.

**Brent:** All right. I'm gonna say it. I'm not sure about the Fox News thing, because I think a lot of people could hear her message that would never otherwise hear it. I'm on the fence about it. I totally think that she's got good points, obviously Fox News is terrible, but it's like, there are people that are in that bubble that never get to hear how great she is, never get to hear her policies the way she would want to say them.

And part of me wishes that I could see her kick ass in that situation. She has done 70 town halls. She's great at 'em. So it's like, part of me mourns for the loss of her ability to go in and be like, "Look, motherfuckers," and actually get the audience on her side.

But like, you know, the point is well taken. You're still making money for evil people. So that's my thing.

**Courtney:** Yeah. That's— and that's why I'm totally fine with this. The fact is, honestly, like, she's not gonna get those people. She's just not. She knows— she saw what happened in 2016. She knows she's not gonna fucking get those people. So she can just not make money off of— like, they can't make money off of her. I am so fucking on board for it.

**Travis:** I'm rarely this person too, but in this case, from having done this show for several years now, I am, which is like, you know, that kind of like, "Well, the devil you know," or lesser of the two evils, where you're like, "Well, I don't wanna support this thing, but that's how I get my message. It's what everyone does."

And it's like, yeah, but I kind of really respect the, like, "Yeah, I could, but someone has to take a stand and say, 'You know what, I'm not gonna do it.'"

And if she said that about, I don't know, huge, actual like debate, if Fox was hosting like a presidential debate and she refused to go to it, I'd be like, "That's a mistake, Candidate Warren." But in this circumstance of, like, a town hall, it's like, yeah, you know what? They just want to do it so they can get ratings off of you and Fox News isn't your shit, I wouldn't do it.

**Brent:** So once again, Trump is threatening a sovereign country that, in all likelihood, isn't much of a threat to us. Just to rewind a bit, President Obama, in 2015, signed a deal with Iran where the US would pay them between 25 and 50 billion dollars. Conservative pundits were like, "Grr! Why would you give money to a Muslim enemy country!" but, as we reported at the time, the US had money that had belonged to Iran that had been frozen and not given back for decades. So that was only fair, and a decision on Obama's part to take the high road.

Meanwhile, the deal had us agreeing to lift sanctions, so they would slow down their nuclear weapons program, reduce uranium stockpiles, and allow inspection of these nuclear facilities. It was a pretty good deal. It wasn't perfect, but like, it improved things. It was productive from a diplomatic perspective.

Well, Trump loves to undo Obama policies and deals, so he pulled out of the deal, pissing off Iran. I'd like to take a moment to point out that the Trump administration and the American far right at large seems to hate Iran because they think Iran is, like, this evil Muslim country that has it out for us. But they also see Iran as the archenemy of Israel, who we have a strangely creepy warm alliance with.

But in all reality, Saudi Arabia's way worse in so many ways than Iran. Just recently, they decided to execute three men for being political moderates, at least one of which implied a pro-gay stance, and I do mean implied, on social media, and that being part of the reason. The Saudis just have oil and they're our friends for old political and economic reasons. And I'm pointing that out to say, everything that uh, the far right will say that is bad about Iran is worse in Saudi Arabia. But they are our problematic fave, not Iran.

And ultimately, just like North Korea, if Iran attempted to— an unprovoked nuclear attack of the United States, they'd get nuked to hell before they could say, "Oh, shit." But Trump has been a jerk and even somewhat threatening to Iran, particularly threatening new sanctions, for a while now.

And recently, the Iranian president, Hassan Rouhani, publicly said, quote, "Mr. Trump, don't play with a lion's tail. This would only lead to regret." Unquote.

Well, Trump took the bait, shock me, shock me, shock me, and posted a late-night tweet that said, quote, and this is almost entirely in caps, "Never ever threaten the United States again, or you will suffer consequences the likes of which few throughout history have ever suffered before! Be cautious." In fact, it was all caps, now that I look at it.

Um, kind of reminded me of that "fire and fury" quote he said to North Korea, which never came of anything, because the man is an empty shell of threats and lies. It doesn't help that he's surrounded himself with a few warmongering neocons like John Bolton, who's currently his national security adviser.

Bolton was instrumental in the Iraq war, which, by the way, Trump rallied against many times before he was president. And Bolton has advocated for preemptive strikes of both Iran and North Korea. The dude just wants a war. Never met a war he didn't like.

**Travis:** So different from his brother, Michael.

**Brent:** It's true. It's true. If only he could have gotten on that train. Oh, well. He chose the big, bushy mustache route.

So anyway, Trump seemed to walk it back a little bit, telling reporters he didn't have any concerns about stoking tensions with Iran, and then on a different day, he was asked about the prospects of an armed conflict with Iran, and his answer was, quote, "I hope not."

So we'll see. He likes to swing his dick around, but considering the fact that he was right about the pointless Iraq war, I'd like to think he wouldn't ultimately pull the trigger, just like he didn't with North Korea. But he's ultimately a man with no principles, who often just thinks the best idea is the last idea he heard from a confident person.

It's scary. I'm not trying to be alarmist. We're nowhere near ready for that. And I don't think the American public has any appetite for a war with Iran, except maybe people that just want brown people and what they think of as the desert to die, 'cause that's their thing. That's their little hobby. But I'm just hoping it doesn't go any further.

**Travis:** One last one. So also, if we could just, content warning here. We're gonna be talking about abortion and, you know, general medical stuff. Um, we weren't— we didn't record last week, so wanted to cover this. Last Tuesday, May 14th, after four hours of debate, Alabama passed into law the most restrictive abortion legislation in the US. Uh, under HB314, as it is known.

Performing an abortion in Alabama is now considered a Class A felony, and attempting to perform an abortion is considered a Class C felony. Basically, a doctor performing or attempting to perform an abortion in Alabama could face a sentence of 10 years to life.

The law only has two exemptions. If necessary in order to prevent a serious health risk to the unborn child's mother, or if the fetus has a lethal abnormality. The bill also makes clear that, quote, "This bill would provide that a woman who receives an abortion will not be held criminally culpable or civilly liable for receiving the abortion," end quote.

Alabama Democrats attempted to add an amendment that would make exemptions for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest, but it was voted down. Governor Kay Ivey said in a statement, quote, "Today I signed into law the Alabama Human Life Protection Act, a bill that was approved by overwhelming majorities in both chambers of the legislature. To the bill's many supporters, the legislation stands as a powerful testament to Alabama— Alaba— Alabamians'," sure, "deeply-held belief that every life is precious and that every life is a sacred gift from God," end quote.

**Brent:** [sighs]

**Travis:** Now, I could launch into a pretty long rant here about people needing to keep God out of politics, especially when they only seem to want to apply God to stuff like abortion, but apparently God doesn't think every life is sacred when it comes to gun control or programs to help with drug addiction...

**Brent:** Or, often, when the babies are born.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Brent:** The whole, you know, "Do unto others" somehow falls through the cracks.

**Travis:** Yes. So I'll leave it at this: fuck off. Another person who could get a pretty solid fuck off is this guy from CNN. "Republican State Senator Clyde Chambliss, who ushered the bill through the chambered, repeatedly referred on the senate floor Tuesday, to a, quote, 'window of time between conception and a woman knows for sure that she's pregnant.' The state senator said he believed that time was between about 7 and 10 days."

**Courtney:** [screaming] That's not a thing!

**Travis:** A week, Clyde? Clyde! Most home pregnancy tests won't register results until two weeks after conception, and even then, you have to know to check two weeks after that, and that would most likely, but not always, be because you are trying to get pregnant, you dumb piece of shit.

Also, the idea of just like, a spidey sense tingling of like, "Huh. I think I'm pregnant." Two weeks after conception, you haven't even missed a period at that point, dawg! Like...

**Courtney:** I. Hate. Everyone. That's it. That's all I have to say.

**Travis:** I should also point out, this bill is completely unenforceable. Roe v. Wade makes abortion legal in all 50 states, yes? Roe v. Wade has been under threat basically since it came into existence, but it's still in place and what's more, Ivey knows that. Listen to this convoluted bullshit she says.

Quote, "No matter one's personal view on abortion, we can all recognize that at least for the short term, this bill may similarly be unenforceable. As citizens of this great country, we must always respect the authority of the US Supreme Court, even when we disagree with their decisions. Many Americans, myself included, disagreed when Roe v. Wade was handed down in 1973. The sponsors of this bill believe that it is time, once again, for the US Supreme Court to revisit this important matter, and they believe this act may bring about the best opportunity for this to occur," end quote.

So basically, us citizens, we have to respect the authority of the US Supreme Court, even when we disagree. And so, even though we disagreed in 1973, we've now passed this bill, so that they will have to reconsider the thing we disagreed with.

Like, this is like someone saying, "Listen, you know, I wasn't the writer and creator of Game of Thrones, so they have every right to end it however they want. And so, knowing that they have every right to end it however they want, I have now created this petition to make them remake it."

It's like, it's absolute convoluted nothing bullshit. You can't say that you respect what they said, even though you disagree with it, but say, "Now it's time to make them reconsider." Like—

**Brent:** I think it's a pretty nefarious dogwhistle. Because as you know, and as I think is in the copy, basically this is all a ploy to get Roe v. Wade changed by the Supreme Court.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Brent:** But by saying that, now that they think, and they might be right, that they have a conservative majority that would overturn it in the Supreme Court, saying we must always respect the authority of the US Supreme Court, mwahaha, you know, like, it just feels like saying something that can still apply on the other side of it, once they send Roe V. Wade crashing down. It feels very villainous to me.

**Travis:** Yeah. It's so transparent, that basically they have put this bill in place, they signed it into law, so that they can charge someone, so that it will be taken to the Supreme Court, so that— you know what I mean? Like...

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** They didn't do this because they thought a law was necessary. They did this as a way to force the issue of addressing Roe v. Wade. It's just a waste of taxpayer money and it's a nefarious, as you said, evil way to force an issue before 2020.

**Brent:** Shall we tid the bits?

**Travis:** Please do. Please. Please. Please.

**Courtney:** Just a bit of tid, though. Like, I don't wanna like— I don't wanna fill up on tids... like, you know.

**Travis:** Yes. Before our tapas gets here.

**Courtney:** Yeah. Exactly.

**Brent:** Well, speaking of— speaking of filling up on bits, perhaps bits of I don't know, enchirito, gordita, quesadilla, Taco Bell, the legendary fast food chain and cause of most of America's gastrointestinal distress, is doing what I believe is a first-of-its-kind popup hotel and resort?



This August, they're opening up a hotel and resort called The Bell, meant for, quote, "18 plus super fans." Apparently—

**Travis:** Does that mean 18 or older, or like, 18...

**Brent:** [laughs] "Maybe more than 18 of them, if we can get it!" Um, no. Like, 18 and older super fans of Taco Bell.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Brent:** Apparently, they're gonna serve Taco Bell offerings, including stuff that you can't normally get on the menu, from employees they call Bellhops and—

**Travis:** Yes. That's the best part of all of this.

**Brent:** I mean, it is clever, but everything from the pool floaties to the room desk stationery will be Taco Bell themed, even a taco-themed nail salon and gift shop with exclusive Taco Bell apparel. Obviously, this is a publicity stunt, which admittedly, I'm playing into right this second, as you're listening to me, but it is an interesting way to go about it.

I just feel like the place is gonna smell of farts and Taco Bell wrappers and I'm really curious to see what this "18 plus super fan" clientele will be like. Like, what is a Taco Bell super fan? And which ones of those people— who in that demographic will pay for a high-end hotel and resort?

**Travis:** So you— so Brent, you wouldn't go to stay at this place?

**Brent:** Look, if they said—

**Travis:** If you were going to the town where this was, and you saw that there was an open reservation for the time you were gonna be there, you wouldn't be tempted?

**Brent:** Okay. We're talking about two different things, my friend. If I happened to be traveling there already, and caught wind, which is a thing a lot of people in this hotel are gonna do, that there was a room free in the

Taco Bell hotel and I could, for a similar price as, I don't know, a La Quinta or whatever, stay at the Taco Bell hotel, I'd be like, "Eh, fuck it. I'll give it a shot."

But like, that's not the same as a super fan from Nebraska flying down to Florida. I think it's in Florida. I'm not actually sure, all of a sudden. But like, flying across the country just to be part of this cultural moment. Um, so, anyway...

**Travis:** So Felicity Huffman has officially pled guilty in the ongoing college admission scandal. Because she made the plea, prosecutors said that they would only ask for four months of prison time. However, it is possible that the judge will not call for any. Sentencing is set to occur on September 13th.

Interestingly, it seems pretty clear at this point that Huffman's husband, William H. Macy, was also present when the cheating arrangements were made and explicitly agreed to them. However, for some reason, prosecutors have not charged Macy, and have not said why, as of yet.

**Brent:** Hmm.

**Travis:** Also, one last tidbit, it was announced that Robert Pattinson will most likely be the next to portray the Batman on film. While it's not official, it seems to be a, quote, "done deal," according to sources. And would you believe it? Some folks seem to have opinions about it! There are petitions springing up across the web, ranging from petitions about casting other specific actors, or to ones that just want anyone other than Pattinson.

I personally think that Pattinson is a perfectly fine choice, all things considered. It's not like DC is running the risk of ruining their cinematic universe or anything, so how about we just hold off judgment until we see a, I don't know, single second of film from the movie?

**Courtney:** As someone who just watched all four Twilight movies in a row for SYFY FANGRRRLS. A-Google it. Um, Robert Pattinson is the best thing in those movies.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** Robert Pattinson's great. He knows exactly what movie he's in, and also, he has like, zero fucks to give in interviews. I cannot wait for him to be that man, and also do this press cycle. It's going to be a-beautiful.

[music plays]

**Janet:** Hey! I'm Janet Varney, and like many of you, some more recent than others, I used to be a teenager. In fact, just about all of my friends were too, including wonderful women like Alison Brie.

**Alison:** I'm dead center on the balance beam. And this is like, a big gym. All the kid— kids' parents are there, watching. I have to stop, like you know when you have to pee so bad and you can't even move. And then I just go. I just pee right in the middle of the high balance beam.

**Janet:** Oh, no. [laughs] Oh!

So join me every week on The JV Club Podcast, where I speak with complicated, funny, messy humans as we reminisce about our adolescences and how they led us to becoming who we are. Find it every Thursday on Maximum Fun.

[radio adjusting noise]

**Oliver:** Welcome back to Fireside Chat on KMAX. With me in studio to take your calls is the dopest duo on the west coast, Oliver Wang and Morgan Rhodes. [phone rings] Go ahead, caller.

**Speaker:** Hey. I'm looking for a music podcast that's insightful and thoughtful, but like, also helps me discover artists and albums that I've never heard of.

**Morgan:** Yeah, man. It sounds like you need to listen to Heat Rocks. Every week, myself, and I'm Morgan Rhodes, and my cohost here, Oliver Wang, talk to influential guests about a canonical album that has changed their lives.

**Oliver:** Guests like Moby, Open Mike Eagle, talking about albums by Prince, Joni Mitchell, and so much more.

**Speaker:** Yo! What's that show called, again?

**Morgan:** Heat Rocks. Deep dives into hot records.

**Oliver:** Every Thursday on Maximum Fun.

[radio static]

**Brent:** Now, it's time for our Wi-Five of the week. Each week, we scour the internet for examples of folks doing good things and being good people, and we choose one or more to whom we'd like to give an internet high five, or Wi-Five.

[slapping noise]

This week's Wi-Five goes out to a team of Canadian scientists at McMaster University. So to zoom out for a second, part of the challenge with vaccinating the world against diseases, aside from anti-vaxxers, boo, is the fact that some important vaccines are very fragile, requiring storage in a cold freezer, and they can only be held at fridge temperatures for a few days before they go bad.

This makes it very hard to effectively combat epidemics in a third-world country, for instance, where they may need it most. But a grad student at McMaster named Sana Jahanshahi-Anbuhi had a eureka moment when she was at the grocery store, and saw Listerine breath strips.

The ingredient of a sugar called pullana— pullalan— gosh, help me out, scientists, if I said that wrong. Maybe it's pullulan [pah-loo-lan]. Let's go with pullulan! The ingredient of a sugar called pullulan protects the Listerine in the strip, and can also protect fragile biological molecules such as enzymes. As it turns out, pullulan helps to form a barrier around vaccine molecules that keeps oxygen out and holds them in place.

So now, a team of scientists including Anbuhi have released a paper showing how they were able to create vaccines that don't require refrigeration, and can keep even in desert temperatures. If this process becomes the norm for fighting worldwide epidemics, it could improve the efficiency of saving lives, particularly with measles, which has come back really strong across the world in recent years.

It's a hopeful new development that could drastically help people from all walks of life, in countries at all levels of industrialization. So to this team of scientists at McMaster University, Wi-Five.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** All right, folks. That's gonna do it for us this week. Thank you so much for joining us. Uh, a couple things. First, big thank you, as always, to Mustin, who edits the show. Mustin has a super sexy video game band called The OneUps, that just released their eighth album today, and you should check it out. You can find it at [bit.ly/touvolume4](http://bit.ly/touvolume4). So [touvolume4](http://touvolume4), uh, and go check that out.

Also, check out all the other amazing shows on [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org). Right now, we've got a— if you go to [McElroy.family](http://McElroy.family) and click on tours, you can get tickets for our upcoming shows in, let's see, Nashville and in Indianapolis, but you can also get the tickets that just went on sale for our graphic novel book 2, The Adventure Zone Graphic Novel Book 2, live events.

I'm going to be at Revolution Hall in Portland, Oregon, on July 16th, and I'm going— along with my dad. My dad and I are also going to be in Los Angeles at the Ace Theater July 17th. And then all of us, Carey, my dad, my brothers Justin and Griffin and I are going to be at San Diego at the Balboa Theatre during Comic-Con on July 19th. Uh, and also, Justin and Griffin are going to be in New York and Austin on the 16th and 17th.

So you can go get those tickets. [McElroy.family](http://McElroy.family), click on tours, the price of the ticket includes a copy of the graphic novel book 2. And if you just want to order the book, if you're not gonna be at any of those places, you can go to [TheAdventureZoneComic.com](http://TheAdventureZoneComic.com).

**Courtney:** [whispering] I'm probably also going to be in San Diego. I'll see you there, boo.

**Travis:** [whispering] Yeah!

**Courtney:** Yeah. I don't know yet, so I'm whispering.

**Travis:** Okay. That means they can't hear it.

**Courtney:** This can still, like, make it to air. I'm just whispering. Guys, no one tell anyone.

Anyway, you can find my stuff at SYFY FANGRRLS. And also, if you're in the Chicago area, June 13th, I will be the guest at Jordan, Jesse, Go!'s live show at Sleeping Village in the Chicago area. It's in Chicago, it's in Avondale. So get tickets to that, 'cause I would love to see some people who actually know who I am. And I'm not just some rando that they have found on the streets.

**Brent:** Well, on that note, I am the co-creator and designer of a comedy party game called Use Your Words. It's super fun. In fact, it's so fun I will continue my guarantee for all Trends Like These listeners. If you play it and you just don't have that great of a time, tell me on Twitter. I will personally Venmo or otherwise send you a full refund. You don't even have to get rid of the game. And it's available now for all the current generation consoles, as well as the Nintendo Wii-U and Steam for PC and Mac. More information about that at UseYourWords.lol.

**Travis:** So I think that is going to do it for us. Courtney, am I forgetting anything?

**Courtney:** You are forgetting that I have not read the comments, and I never will. My life will always be far too beautiful and exciting to care about the haters and the losers!

**Travis:** We'll be back in a couple days.

**Brent:** See you next time.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Mr. Dark Cloud and his brother, Rainy Days.

**Courtney:** [singing] Mr. Dark Cloud, please be Dark Cloud, and get a...  
[singing unintelligibly]

[Chord]

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